Pulman's View from Seaton & Beer

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Flats to undergo fire safety check

By ANDERS LARSSON
anders@tindlenews.co.uk

ALL 222 blocks of council flats in east Devon will undergo a fire risk assessment (FRA) to protect East Devon District Council (EDDC) against prosecutions or legal challenges should fires occur.

EDDC officials stress that the flats were built in accordance with fire safety standards in place at the time of construction.

EDDC's Housing Review Board will meet on Thursday, January 12th and has been recommended to approve the fire assessment process outlined in the report - and approve an annual budget of £50,000 to "carry out the identified additional fire safety works required".

The report explained that the FRA is a statutory requirement, so there is no alternative.

The report also exlained: "The assessment will identify the fire precaution measures in place and recommend any further changes or improvements to the fire safety at individual blocks of flats.

"Although all our blocks of flats should at the time of construction have had appropriate fire precaution measures in place, no formal assessments have been recently undertaken.

"The council's health and safety officer recommended that this exercise is undertaken to safeguard the council against any future risks of prosecution or legal challenge in the event of a fire in a block of flats.

"It also demonstrates our commitment to tenant safety.

"The FRA is primarily a review of the fire precaution measures we already have in place and to implement any changes to bring those measures up to date.

"Officers have already identified the need to upgrade the emergency lighting at some blocks of flats; provide up to date fire action signs; provide additional signage to clearly show the exits and means of escape for residents and visitors and ensure doors and door closures are fit for purpose.

"The assessment process should be completed by the end of 2012/13."

● EDDC owns 222 blocks of flats ranging from converted semi detached houses into four flats – two up and two down — through to purpose-built blocks of up to 28 flats.

According to EDDC, these buildings have appropriate fire precaution measures that were in place at the time the property was built.

If significant improvements/building works have been undertaken since the property was built, additional fire precaution measures will have been put in place.

◆ **THE Axe Vale Harriers held its traditional hunt meet on the seafront at Seaton on Boxing Day morning, and a large crowd turned out to watch. Some of the younger spectators are pictured meeting the hounds**

■ ***Photos can be easily viewed and purchased online at www.colyton-today.co.uk***

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Happy Birthday
JULIE WOODWARD happy 40th birthday on 6th Jan. Love Anita, Tony & Ellie x

Happy New Year From all the staff at Pulmans

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT ORDER FORM

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Send to: PULMAN'S VIEW FROM, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email to: julie@tindlenews.co.uk

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We are happy to include photos. If you would like to have your photos returned, please supply a S.A.E.

Only entries submitted with full contact details will be published. Deadline is Thursday before the Tuesday's publication and must be submitted on the above form. No faxes will be considered.

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Towns' next generation

ANOTHER 45,000 Devon homes and businesses will be getting access to faster broadband by the summer of this year, according to information released by BT.

The news closely follows announcements of other broadband schemes in the south west previously reported by *Pulman's View* and aims to help serve as a catalyst for growth in local economies.

Towns included in BT's latest roll-out programme for a "next generation broadband service" are Axminster, Ottery St Mary and Seaton.

Residents of these towns can now look forward to more than double the maximum speeds previously available to most UK homes and businesses.

The broadband network will be available on an open, wholesale basis to all companies providing broadband services.

Poppy success

THE Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in Axminster and the surrounding area raised a record-breaking £11,000-plus this year.

The precise amount was £11,741.00 at the time of going to press, but money is still coming in.

RBL (Axminster branch) chairman Dave Warner said: "Well done Axminster. This is an exceptional amount considering the difficult financial period.

"The biggest thank you must go to the people of Axminster and the surrounding area for their support during the collection period."

Art students given bursaries in recognition of their talent

◆ FROM left, Jenny Fells (Axminster Arts), Donna Wiscombe, Elena Brake, Hazel Hodges, Marie Wiscombe, Tony Hansell (awards organiser) and Cara Shurey

By CHARLIE TRAYNOR
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AXMINSTER Arts has, for the fifth year running, awarded bursaries amounting to £650 to local art students in recognition of their talent.

The scheme, organised by Tony Hansell in conjunction with the Axminster Arts committee, has seen 21 student grants, funded by profits from the arts café, handed out to date.

Those winning the awards were all former students of schools in east Devon, south Somerset or west Dorset.

Hazel Hodges (Holyrood Academy in Chard) and Cara Shurey (Colyton Grammar School) were both awarded £100 while Donna Wiscombe and Marie Wiscombe (both ex-students of The Woodroffe School in Lyme Regis) and Elena Brake (Axe Valley Community College) all received £150.

Sisters Donna and Marie both agreed that the bursaries awarded by Axminster Arts have motivated them to continue developing their artistic talents.

All the winners also told *Pulman's View* how the money received will be put to use buying important materials such as a drawing board crucial for Hazel's architecture course at Plymouth University.

Hazel said of the bursary: "I'm very grateful as it will help me to complete my course."

Elena, now studying fine art at Plymouth University, won her award for a portfolio of various pieces of photography, paintings and poems and hopes to pursue a career as an art therapist.

She said: "I'm really pleased with the award and all the work I put together."

Helen Fitzgerald and John Howard-Greaves, who helped judge the candidates, both commented on the breadth and quality of the work submitted which made winning the bursaries all the more impressive.

The winners will now have a year to put together a portfolio of their work which will be incorporated into an exhibition at the arts café in 2013.

An exhibition by the 2010 winners will be held in the spring.

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Backing for youth team

HONITON Town Council (HTC) has resolved how it can support Honiton Youth Centre following talks with Devon County Council (DCC) that will see an annual grant of £2,000 bestowed.

A spokesman for HTC has said that the council's priority is ensuring that the youth centre remained viable in the current climate of budget cuts.

The funding scheme agreed by DCC has allowed the council to extend the service to children aged 11 years and up as well as allowing entry for young people genuinely unable to afford the new fee.

HTC has also been working with neighbourhood beat manager PC Carnell to tackle the speeding problem on Kings Road.

PC Carnell told the council that a speed check had been set up five times during November and found that 13.4 per cent of vehicles were speeding at over 36mph.

Data has now been forwarded to the road casualty reduction officer and will be raised with the Highways Agency.

Firefighters at car blaze

FIREFIGHTERS were called to a car fire at Old Manor Gardens, Colyford on Monday, December 12th at about 8.45am.

A spokesman for the fire and rescue service said that one fire engine from Colyton was sent to the location.

The crew extinguished a fire in the car's engine compartment.

Richard is the new boss of farm group

JOHN LEE, chairman of the council of Devon County Agricultural Association (DCAA), has announced that the board of management has approved the appointment of Richard Maunder as its new chief executive.

Mervyn Hosking, chief executive and association secretary for 12 years, announced his decision to retire after this year's Devon County Show.

Mr Maunder will take up his new role on May 28th.

Mr Lee said: "We were fortunate to have had an excellent field of well-qualified candidates for this post, but Richard's commercial and business experience, his knowledge and his dedication to the farming and food producing communities of Devon made him an outstanding candidate.

"I am confident that the DCAA will go from strength to strength under his leadership."

Mr Maunder has worked in the agricultural sector in the South West for 22 years and comes from a Devon family who have been involved with farming and food for generations.

Trained as a chartered accountant, he worked for Lloyd Maunder for almost 20 years, latterly as joint managing director, until the company was acquired by 2 Sisters Food Group in January 2008.

He said: "I am proud to have been born, educated and employed in Devon and now relish the opportunity to have a role working for the wider community in this great county through the office of DCAA secretary and chief executive."

Planning reforms 'will hit town centres hard'

IN a landmark review of Britain's high streets and town centres, Mary Portas has questioned the impact of the Government's controversial planning reforms on the long-term viability of town centres.

The shopping guru said: "I am worried that the guidance has been softened to the point where far too much out-of-town development may be possible.

"If anything, the presumption in favour of 'sustainable development' may make edge-of-town and out-of-town developments more likely."

Graeme Willis, senior rural policy campaigner at the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), said: "We welcome this report, which gives the Government a perfect opportunity to make improvements to its proposed changes to planning policy.

"Portas makes it clear that it is not good enough to take a 'laissez-faire' approach to planning if we want to achieve the right kind of economic growth. This approach will lead to more out of town mega stores and supermarkets that suck the life out of town centres.

"This report adds to the overwhelming case for a fundamental revision of the Government's planning reforms. We urge ministers to seize the opportunity it presents."

■ *Pulman's View supports local traders across Pulman's Country and, in particular, those struggling in the area's high streets.*

Linda, 24, takes top show prizes

◆ **BRITISH Blue cross heifer Duchess owned by Linda Pidsley, of Upton Ley Farm, Payhembury, Honiton**

SUPREME Champion at Exeter and District Christmas Show at Exeter Livestock Centre, Matford Park, was a 20-month-old British Blue cross heifer, Duchess, owned by Linda Pidsley, of Upton Ley Farm, Payhembury, Honiton.

The judge was Welsh butcher Arwyn Morgan. Linda, 24, a chef at Mark Hox's Oyster and Fish House, Lyme Regis, also took the reserve championship with her British Blue cross Vinnie.

The Honiton YFC member described winning both titles, something not done before in the history of the show, as "fantastic".

She added: "It is only my second year showing and last year I only had a couple of animals, so this is a truly astonishing achievement.

"I have had a team of eight commercial show cattle through the summer, showing first at the Devon County Show and then at one-day shows over the summer. Now I have a team of 11 for the winter shows.

"I took seven cattle to the Exeter Christmas Show – three haltered cattle, Duchess, Vinnie and Caramel, two baby show potential calves, Bowen and Flash, one unhaltered steer, Duke, and one stirk, Beefcake.

"The three haltered cattle were entered in two classes each, Duchess and Vinnie winning both of their classes.

"Caramel had two seconds, Duke won the unhaltered section and Beefcake won the stirk class. The calves were third and fourth in their classes.

"I took additional prizes of Champion Young Handler, Champion Young Farmers' Animal, Champion and Reserve Rired by a British Blue and Most Points in the Show.

"All in all, I received eight shiny silver cups, 14 rosettes, two sashes, two whisky tumblers and a good amount of prize money."

Linda said it would not have been possible without the continued support and help of her family and partner, Paul Calcraft.

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Pulman's View from the churches

With NIGEL SPELLER

FOR those who wish to pray regularly for the churches and people of the Anglican Communion overseas, the 2012 Cycle of Prayer is now available for downloading at http://www.anglicancommunion.org/aep/downloads.cfm.

The present document is correct to October 26th, 2011 and updates will be available every quarter.

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, one of Exeter's companion dioceses, also publishes a six-monthly Prayer Fellowship Booklet. The current issue runs from Sunday November 27th 2011.

For inquiries in the UK contact 01392 879135 or gsimey@blueyonder.co.uk.

A reminder that palm crosses grown and made in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf may still be ordered in time for Palm Sunday on April 1st. Inquiries or orders (£13 per 100, delivered free) may go to Canon David Price on 01395 269811.

The Rev Gavin Tyte, Vicar of Uplyme Church, has created a three-minute video following the popularity of a live performance last year. He filmed himself telling Luke's gospel using the technique of beatboxing, or using the mouth, lips, tongue and voice to give musical sounds and rhythm.

His video, The Beatbox Nativity, has been viewed more than 91,000 times on the internet and involves the vicar posing in costume as the gospel's key characters. The 40-year-old vicar was a professional beatboxer before he was ordained seven years ago and has been using the technique since he was eight years old.

News comes of two clergy appointments of interest. The next Dean of Exeter will be Canon Jonathan Draper, currently Canon Theologian at York Minster, replacing the Rev Jonathan Meyrick, who left last year to be Bishop of Lynn.

Canon Draper was born in the USA but has served in England since obtaining his first degree. He is married to Maggie.

Meanwhile, the Rev Dr Oliver Simon, whose home is in east Devon, has been named Bishop in North Madagascar from February 19th. We offer him and his family our congratulations and prayers for his new task.

Recently we reported the winning of a Royal School of Church Music Gold award by Matilda Board, of Colyton Church Choir. Now comes news of a further Royal School of Church Music award, this time for Nicholas Brown, the Colyton choir leader who, along with six others across the country, receives a Certificate of Special Service.

These awards and others will be presented at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday, June 16th at 3pm during a special Royal School of Church Music Choral Evensong

The Queen and I, by purser Malcolm

MOST of us regard the Queen as, shall we say, regal, and therefore not quite "one of us".

Not so, according to Malcolm Cowell, who spoke of his time as purser to the Queen for her overseas visits.

Members of Axminster Probus Club heard that Malcolm started as a steward with BOAC in 1960 at a time when dress discipline was very strict and a high standard of decorum was required of all staff.

While in Singapore – in the right place at the right time – he was asked to replace the current purser who had suddenly succumbed to malaria.

The temporary post became permanent, if intermittent, when the previous incumbent failed to recover completely.

Whenever the Queen was to embark on an overseas trip he was required to attend one of the palaces for a four-day briefing and was accommodated there.

It was at Sandringham that he decided to walk to the pub one evening.

A Land Rover drew up alongside. "Where are you going Malcolm?" "To the pub, Ma'am".

"Jump in," said HM, who followed up by asking what time he would leave. "I'll pick you up then", she said.

Malcolm's duties also included the briefing of visiting ships on the required protocol.

Addressing the crew of the Argentine cruiser Libertad he was told he had no jurisdiction.

The captain promptly enrolled him as chief petty officer and the problem was solved. He wonders if the rank still holds good.

The speaker then turned to some of his experiences apart from his royal duties and soon had his audience splitting their sides.

Due to the reduced pressure at altitude there is a tendency for the body to swell a little.

A female passenger was seen plunging a knife into her bosom and Malcolm raced to restrain her. She insisted that she had no intention of hurting herself. Her inflatable bra had merely over-inflated.

In Chicago he went out in severe cold against advice and his face soon began to freeze.

He was saved by a waitress in a nearby restaurant who defrosted him by plunging his face into her bosom .

In Singapore a soft body had crawled under the sheets of his bed (it turned out to be a lizard) and in Tel Aviv he had to rescue a hysterical stewardess from a giant spider in her room.

He was bitten by a snake while swimming in Bombay and knocked out by an Indian gentleman who leapt in to save him.

The only legacy, he said, was a tendency to speak with an Indian accent.

Malcolm still has a full life; he plays the chicken in Seaton's pantomimes.

Lions' £3,000 for air ambulances

IT has become traditional for the spouses of Lions clubs' district governors, during the year of office, to choose a charity to benefit on behalf of the district.

During the year of office 2010–2011 Val Rutter, wife of district governor, 105SW, Lion Neil Rutter, of Seaton and District Lions Club, chose the air ambulances in the South West.

As District 105SW spreads over Cornwall, Devon and parts of Somerset, it was fitting that the air ambulances covering the three counties should benefit.

Lions clubs throughout the South West contributed to the fund, together with individual contributions, including a brunch hosted by Val and Neil, together with sales of Lions quiz sheets that raised just over £300 towards the total of £3,276 that conveniently divided into £1,092 for each ambulance.

WI marks its 15th birthday

THE November meeting was a special occasion for the Honiton Afternoon Women's Institute as it was its 15th birthday.

After the usual business matters had been dealt with and the annual meeting had taken place, members were entertained by two of their own ladies.

The secretary, Jenny Richards, showed a most interesting album of old postcards, including Exeter in 1904, together with many others from various parts of the country where she had lived.

June Vear then gave an amusing reading entitled Grandma's Apron, which explained the apron's many uses in days gone by.

A pleasant afternoon came to a close with everyone enjoying a slice of birthday cake made by Mary Eagleton.

Secret Santa brings gifts

CHRISTMAS arrived early at All Saints and District Women's Institute meeting on Tuesday, December 6th.

After the usual business at the beginning of the afternoon members were entertained by Colin Andrews.

Colin played several different instruments and sang Christmas songs, carols and folk songs.

He gave an amusing rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas which caused a great deal of laughter. The afternoon finished with tea, cakes and the distribution of presents from a secret Santa.

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The festive faces of children across Pulman's Country in their school nativity plays...

PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS

◆ THE pupils at Beer Primary School put on their Christmas production The Peace Child in the Mariners Hall in the village

◆ ALL SAINTS Primary School's Stable Manners takes the stage in the village church. Here the sheep gather to sing

PHOTOS BY COLIN BOWERMAN

◆ AWLISCOMBE Primary School pupils during the dress rehearsal of their Christmas production The Three Kings, which they put on in the parish church next to the school. Above, the angels appear to the shepherds

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This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Closing date: 20th January 2012 noon
Interviews: 26th January 2012

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Wishing everyone a
Happy New Year

PULMAN'S LITTLE ANGELS

PHOTO BY COLIN BOWERMAN

◆ MARY and Joseph in All Saints Primary's Stable Manners

PHOTO BY MARTIN WHITHAM

◆ FARWAY Primary School pupils held their Christmas concert of carol singing and readings in the parish church.

◆ THE nursery children at Littletown Primary School put on their Christmas nativity in front of the rest of the pupils of the school. Here, the Three Kings arrive

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~ As chosen by Pulman's View ~

The truth about this rural internet project

EDITOR – I have done some research into the broadband programme that Devon County Council have set up, as excitedly announced in "DCC: Major Web Plans" in the November 29th issue of your paper.

The supposed aim of the plan is for small businesses and homes to gain access to faster broadband speeds, especially in slow speed areas and dead spots.

However, it is not all it claims to be because the plan only covers hardware and installation and leaves the actual contracts at an extremely high price.

Researching Tooway Direct's internet contracts, and speaking to them on the phone, I have discovered the true cost of this connection.

Even though hardware and installation become free, a contract with a reasonable download cap of 16gb (and for some small businesses this is low) will still set the customer back £40 a month, while in order to reach the quoted 10mbps speed, the customer will have to spend £55 a month.

Even the lowest download cap of a mere eight gb (which is light usage for a small business or even a family) costs £25 a month.

It is disappointing that Devon County Council is choosing to quote speeds as "up to" in the same way as any private internet provider, and also that this is merely playing into the pocket of Tooway Direct, virtually guaranteeing the company 1,050 new customers.

Furthermore, looking at the grant map, huge swathes of rural areas are left out (and I know a number of people with poor connections who are), and Tooway is hardly a viable option, as it costs £170 for hardware and connection and a further £100 for professional installation, though installation can be done at home.

The above figures are from the Tooway website and were correct at the time of writing.

We can compare this with the cost of superfast broadband in urban areas; a leading supplier charges £21 a month to receive 10mbps broadband in these areas.

This relies on fibre optic cable, which of course rural areas will not have. Nonetheless, the only way to help small businesses in rural areas is to decrease the cost of broadband to at least close to those of urban areas.

I believe this is taxpayers' money being used to support a private company and not small businesses in the area.

If DCC were serious about improving rural broadband connections then the council would invest in improving lines and exchanges, which are at the moment shamefully poor, and which would benefit not just a selection of households and businesses but all. Disappointing, DCC.

Jonathan Dower
Address Supplied

STAR LETTER
£10 Archway Bookshop vouchers are on their way to your door...

Thanks for generosity

EDITOR – I would like to thank all those who participated in any way in the three Christian Aid autumn lunches at Seaton United Reformed Church.

Some supporters can no longer come because of age and frailty and so we admire those with great disabilities who make the effort to attend.

I'm delighted to say that at the third lunch in December everyone made an extra effort and £338.39 was raised for Christian Aid.

A further £85 was made on the Fair Trade stall. The three lunches together raised £690, not counting the Fair Trade stall. Part of that was given to the Silver Appeal so we were able to fund a goat herd, mosquito nets and two beehives for African communities.

Because of the present economic climate it has been a challenging year for fundraising. Our Seaton Christian Aid group through coffee mornings, strawberry teas, a sponsored walk and a house to house collection have raised about £6,500.

We may feel poor, but there are so many who have absolutely nothing and no hope for the future. As we remember God's greatest gift to us at Christmas time, the least we can give to those in dire need is hope.

If you wish to support Christian Aid next year coffee mornings take place on each Friday in Lent starting on Friday, February 24th at Seaton United Reformed Church in Cross Street.

Janet Lang
Event Organiser,
Seaton Christian Aid
Wessiters
Seaton

Egg-ceptional waste of food

CONGRATULATIONS on the good aim of the person who threw an egg at my first floor window on December 4th.

Another time – especially at Christmas – I suggest you put the cost towards a copy of The Big Issue, or send it to a charity.

The cost of a few eggs may save a child's life in some poor country overseas.

I hope you never find yourself starving on the street, remembering throwing away good food!

Resident,
Westcott Way
Honiton
(Name supplied)

Don't forget town's Co-op

HAVING tried our new Tesco and finding its products and service wanting in several areas, I encourage the people of Seaton not to abandon our friendly Co-operative next door so we retain a welcoming alternative, providing necessary competition.

The last thing Seaton needs is reduction of competitiveness in its traders.

Rachel Mason
Seaton

Did they say they wanted to be made redundant?

EDITOR – Your correspondent (December 6th) appears to be advocating making 60-80 of Tesco staff redundant without any evidence that they were asked if they wanted to be made redundant.

It is a bit high-handed to make one's friends and neighbours redundant when many might prefer a part-time job to no job at all .

The NHS has just wasted £12 billion on a patients' records computer system, original costing £2.3billion, which did not work and had to be scrapped.

If one wants more funds for patient care the way to do it is to get in some competent managers to stop the waste .

Do not make half Tesco's staff redundant when they would probably prefer a congenial part-time job to no job at all.

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Addresss supplied

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Firms invited to bid for charity's awards

BUSINESS in the Community has opened up for nominations to its annual awards scheme.

Business in the Community describes itself as a "a business-led charity focused on promoting responsible business practice".

It has a growing membership of more than 850 companies and a further 10,700 companies engaged in its campaigns globally.

It works with its members to transform communities by tackling key social and environmental issues where business can make a real difference.

Business in the Community also offers its members practical support to help them to integrate responsible business practices wherever they operate.

In addition, Business in the Community is one of the Prince's Charities, a group of not-for-profit organisations of which the Prince of Wales is president.

Stephen Howard, Business in the Community chief executive, said: "There are hundreds of companies right across the UK spearheading the responsible business movement by delivering creative programmes that truly make a difference.

"As friction between communities and business continues to dominate the headlines it's time to showcase that businesses can be a force for good.

"I would encourage responsible business of all sizes to enter today."

Applications are open to companies of all sizes and the closing date for entries is Monday, March 5th, 2012, unless otherwise stated on the application pack.

For further information and an application pack, visit www.bitc.org.uk/awards.

◆ AS reported recently, hardware retailer Abbott's, of Ottery St Mary and Seaton, clinched a gold medal at the DIY Week Awards 2011. Abbott's won the Hardware Retailer of the Year category, and the photo was taken during the trophy presentation at Manchester Hilton Deansgate on Thursday, November 24th. From left, compere Paul Tonkinson, Vivienne Abbott, Tony Abbott, Chris Abbott, Jeff Abbott with award sponsor David Hibbert of Stax Trade Centres

Keep those premises secure

BUSINESS owners are being advised by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to keep their premises secure.

Station manager Pete Golding, arson reduction manager for Somerset command, said: "Be aware of other small, deliberately set fires in the locality, which can indicate an increased risk to your premises.

"Be suspicious of any small 'accidental' fires on the premises and investigate them fully and record your findings."

Due to the festive period many businesses close and empty premises are provide a potential target for arsonists.

A recent study has indicated that more than 2,100 deliberately set fires, resulting in two deaths and 55 injuries, occur every week.

Arson reducing measures being advocated include the following:

- Ensure the outside of the premises is well lit and, if practical, secure the perimeter of the premises
- Thoroughly secure all entry points to the premises, including windows and the roof, but make sure that this does not compromise people's ability to use the escape routes
- Make sure you regularly remove all combustible rubbish
- Do not place rubbish skips adjacent to the building and secure waste bins in a compound separated from the building
- Do not park vehicles or store goods or materials in the open next to windows or doors opening into buildings
- Encourage staff to report people acting suspiciously
- Remove automatic entry rights from staff who have been dismissed
- Ensure that your security alarm/fire detection system is monitored and acted on
- Secure flammable liquids so that intruders cannot use them
- Secure all storage areas and unused areas of the building that do not form part of an escape route against unauthorised access, ensure access to keys to those areas is restricted
- Fit secure metal letterboxes on the inside of letter flaps to contain any burning materials that may be pushed through.

Solar PV installations

From mid December, we will be offering new lower cost systems keeping the FiT return up to 9% for ideal Southerly facing locations. Our trading record in Renewables and buying power enables us to offer some really great deals!

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Carol has not let anything hold her back from being a success!

OVER the last few years life has not been too kind to Carol Austin. Carol is 80 years old and has had many health issues to deal with which include diabetes, heart attack and two total knee replacements.

But not to be beaten, Carol decided to do something for herself and try to make a difference. In April 2010 Carol joined the Honiton Slimming World group and when she did so had to enter the group on her mobility scooter and just briefly stood to get her first weigh-in.

Carol knew she had to lose weight but what with one thing or another had never given herself the time to think about tackling it. Eventually, in April 2010, Carol's GP told her that she must lose weight in order to avoid having hip replacements.

This was all it took to spur her on, and as they say, the rest is history.

Over the last year Carol has lost an amazing 4st 10.5 which has had significant impact on her health and life.

Carol has now been able to come off her insulin which, after so many years is such a relief, and also, that lady who first attended group in a mobility scooter, is now walking in just the same as anyone else.

"Carol is a true inspiration" says her Consultant, Sharon, "and even since joining Slimming World Carol has lost her husband and suffered further health problems, but has always persevered with her weight loss journey."

Carol says "I am much more active nowadays, and even visit the gym under supervision. I am always out and about visiting friends and family. I love to eat out and find it so easy now I can follow the Slimming World Extra Easy plan.

I still follow their older plans of green and original too as they all suit me.

I particularly love fish and I am planning a large family get together over Christmas which will include lots of Slimming World recipes which all the family can tuck into"

Carol is now on a mission as she is taking such a big step in July next year when she plans to visit her family in Canada and wishes to reach her weight loss goal by that time.

◆ Carol Austin is proof that slimming at any age can have huge benefits to your health.

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Thursdays 7pm - Feniton Primary School
(Deborah 07986 173481)
*Free taster session 9 Jan

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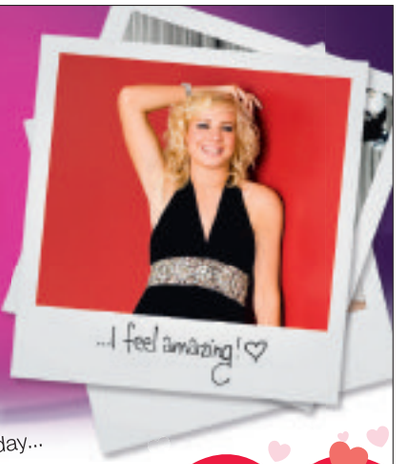

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save over 12% off the entire Axminsters of Devon ranges.
i.e. Dartmoor woven axminster carpet. 100% wool pile, (plains and patterns)
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For example: Topcroft Twist, 55oz pile weight,
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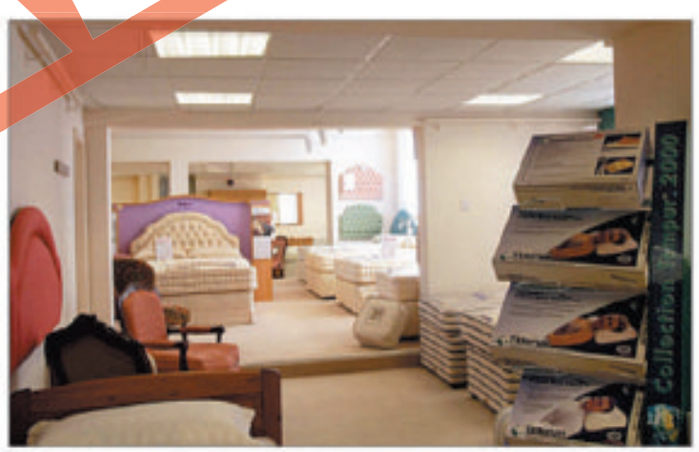

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axcess electric-bikes

Frequently Asked questions about Electric Bikes.

What is an electric bike?

A bicycle is fitted with a battery and electric motor to assist the rider. Under UK law, the motor must not be greater than 250 watt, the maximum speed under power is limited to 15mph. They operate in 2 different ways. First, when you start pedalling, the motor cuts in giving immediate assistance. Secondly, there is a hand thottles,so that on the flat you do not have to pedal. But they are designed so that the rider and motor each give 50% of the effort.

Who rides electric bikes?

Riders want to go further, faster and with less effort than using an ordinary push bike. Commuters who want to get to work without being hot and sweaty. Recreational riders who find the hills challenging. People fed up with using the car for short journeys and find parking inconvenient. People who think they need more exercise and see an electric bike as a solution. People banned from driving or wanting to go to the pub! Dog walker, horse riding trainers, shoppers, motorhome users and there is even a electric bike riding club – all having fun on their electric bikes.

Who do not ride electric bikes?

People, usually men in my experience who believe that they have to be so decrepit that they cannot turn the pedals of an ordinary bike before they would consider mounting an electric bike.

Will they go up hills?

When asking us this question at Honiton, the hills people most often want to go up are at Lyme Regis. The answer depends on how much power the rider can give to the bike. We have one customer who tells us that he rides up from the High Street at Lyme to where he lives at the top using bottom gear and medium power on the bike. But he says he has never tried the hill up from the Cobb. You will get up much steeper hills than you will with a push bike. But if you are 20st and unfit, you will not do as well as a 12st person who is quite fit.

How far will they go?

This depends on the battery power and how you ride the bike. All our batteries are 36 volt and these are 50% larger than equivalent 24 Volt models sometimes seen on the internet. In East Devon, riders putting a reasonable amount of effort into the bike get around 20- 25 miles from a 36 Volt X 10Ahbattery on pedal assist. On the larger 36 volt X 16Ah battery customers ,tell us they get 40 – 50 miles. The systems are not regenerative, so you do not re-charge the battery at any time while riding and batteries take anything up to 4 or 6 hours to re-charge with a mains charger. You can ride the bikes with the power switched off – and go as far as you like!

What about insurance?

Electric bikes, manufactured to the limits set out above, qualify under the same legislation as push bikes. So there is no insurance required, no MOT, or Road fund Licence. The only restriction is that the rider must be at least 14 years old. We can offer Bicycle Protect Insurance for your electric bike.

The Future for Electric Bikes

During the past few months both Smart Car and Ford have both produced concept electric bikes. Ford say that they have no plans to put the electric bike on sale, but they believe that electric bikes are emerging as a viable alternative form of transport for short journeys. In China, the production of electric bikes is approaching 30 million per annum, with more electric bikes than push bikes being manufactured. In Holland the sale of electric bikes accounts for about 10% of the market, whereas in the UK it is less than 1%The bikes themselves are undergoing constant improvement with the development of battery technology for the motor trade having a useful spin off for electric bikes. Other components, such as electronic controllers are continually being updated to contribute to the reliability and range that the bikes can travel. The price of fuel, parking restrictions, the advent of Cycle paths, Cycle to work schemes and the need for exercise and personal preference are all contributing a slow but steady growth in the use of electric bikes in the UK.

Ady, his electric bike and delivery truck

Ady's Commute.

Ady is a delivery driver for Travis Perkins on the Isle of Wight. He lives about 9 miles from work and calculated that his commute was costing him about £80 per month in fuel alone. There is no chance of getting to his work by public transport as the route is all across country. So he bought a FreeGo Hawk electric bike from our Isle of Wight branch.
He planned to cycle from home to Ryde Station (about 3 miles in the wrong direction!) catch the train from Ryde to Shanklin, then cycle down the Cyclepath to his work in Wroxall. After a few days, he took his courage in both hands and went all the way on the electric bike. He says "It was bloomin' easy" "Hills! What hills? Electric bikes just go up hills."He has now been doing it for 6 months and cycled about 2500 miles and saved a "fortune". Oh! And what does he and his wife do at the week-end? They go out on their electric bikes – she has got one too now.

Special New Year Offers in our Showroom

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White FreeGo Hawk Electric Bikes from
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www.axcess-electric-bikes.co.uk

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (18)

FAMILIARITY breeds nagging comparisons rather than contempt in David Fincher's English-language remake of Niels Arden Oplev's acclaimed crime thriller, adapted from the bestseller by Stieg Larsson.

It's been less than two years since British audiences gnawed their nails to the cuticle watching the graphically violent original – the opening chapter of a trilogy also comprising The Girl Who Played With Fire and The Girl Who Kicked The Hornets' Nest.

The Scandinavian co-production was grimy and gritty, and deservedly garnered lead actress Noomi Rapace numerous plaudits for her mesmerising portrayal of an emotionally damaged computer hacker.

Fincher's version oozes style from the eye-catching opening credits, which marries Trent Reznor's electro re-working of Led Zeppelin's Immigrant Song with startling images of oil slithering over body parts and modern technology. The Oscar-nominated director delivers an eye-catching cinematic experience, aided by cinematographer Jeff Cronenweth, who captures the stark beauty and fragility of the wintry Swedish locales.

Editing is snappy, too, for the set pieces, including fisticuffs in a subway station and a night-time chase along perilous roads.

Journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig) is found guilty of slandering a prominent industrialist in his magazine Millennium, edited by on-off lover Erika Berger (Robin Wright).

With his reputation in tatters, Mikael accepts a commission from the reclusive Henrik Vanger (Christopher Plummer).

The old man is haunted by the disappearance of his great-niece Harriet almost 40 years ago and he hopes that the discredited journalist will be able to deduce who abducted and killed the teenager. case.

Even audiences unfamiliar with Larsson's book or the original film will guess the final twist well before Fincher's film spills the blood of the guilty.

DIARY DATES

Saturday, January 7th
CREWKERNE: The monthly Heritage Centre coffee morning will be held from 10am - 12 noon.
Wednesday, January 11th
HONITON: U3A lecture Water Aid - clean water to developing nations by Neil Whiter. 2.15pm at the Turks Head Lodge. For further details phone 01404 20823160.
Saturday, January 14th
DUNKESWELL: Farmers Market at Throgmorton Community Hall 10am - midday. Local produce, plants, crafts and gifts. Refreshments available.

Send your Diary Dates to: diarydates@tindlenews.co.uk, or by post to Pulman's View, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD

Win ice tickets

Competition...Competition...

***PULMAN'S View* has teamed up with Holiday on Ice as it returns to Westpoint Arena, Exeter, from February 14th to 19th and has four pairs of tickets to give away to lucky readers.**

The world's most visited ice show returns with a brand new show — Tropicana: The Passion Tour. Created and choreographed by Olympic champion Robin Cousins MBE, Tropicana takes you on a journey that celebrates love, life, music and dance in one of the most thrilling ice spectaculars you will ever see.

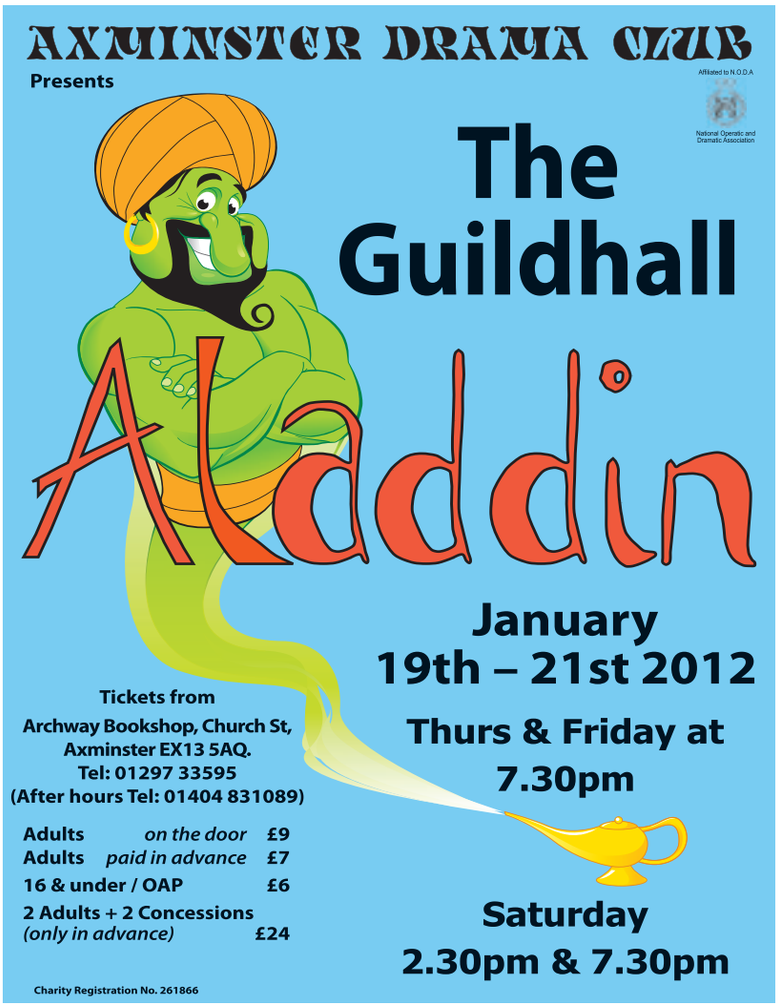
Tickets are now on sale. For more information visit www.holidayonice.co.uk or call the box on 08444 99 99 55.

To be in with a chance of winning one of four pairs of tickets to the Holiday on Ice show send your name, address and telephone number to Holiday on Ice Competition, Pulman's View, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD by Wednesday, January 11th 2012.

■ ***Normal terms and conditions apply. the editor's decision is final***

Tickets for Axminster Drama Club's pantomime Aladdin go on sale at the Archway Bookshop after Christmas.

The club has frozen prices at last year's level of £9 for adults, £6 for concessions and £24 for a family ticket that can only be bought in advance. There will also be discounts available for individual tickets bought in advance. The show is set to take place from Thursday, January 19 to Saturday, January 21 at 7.30pm, with a matinee also taking place on the Saturday, at 2.30pm.The cast has been working hard at rehearsals to create a free-flowing show with some great songs to maintain the pace. The set designers have also been doing their bit, with some stunning scenery being created at the club's headquarters, ready for the first set up weekend, which takes place early in the New Year.Members of Axminster Drama Club look forward to welcoming everyone to see this year's spectacular production



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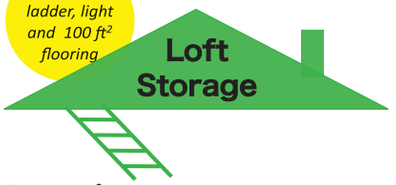

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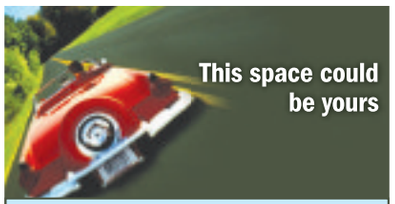

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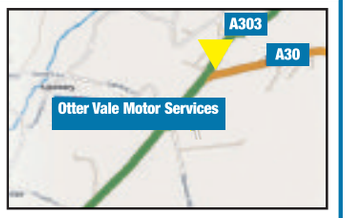

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Harbour Feds 384 (P Squire 73) Old Inn Kilm B 367 (P Dimond 72), Axe Vale Stars 348 (D Baker 68) Tuckers C 357 (M Sprague 71), Ax Inn A 340 (H Thresher 71) Carpetbaggers 332 (M Pidgeon 69), Red Lion D 369 (S Ellis 68) Thorncombe A 377 (A Morency 71).

Division Three

Lamb D 336 (M Rowe 61) New Inn Z 343 (T Welch 64), Seaton FC 362 (P Harrison 67) Gerrard D 356 (P Strawbridge 66).

Division Four

New Inn Hawks 328 (D Rowe 63) Harbour Hawks 291 (K Morley 58), Tuckers B 305 (K Gigg 53) Seaton BC 330 (G Mabon 60) Tuckers A 348 (M Jones 65) Old Hawk A 343 (C Churchill 63), Harbour Rotary 393 (J Brennan 76) New Inn Kilm A 403 (N Pollard,J Robertson 74)

Division One

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ax Con Club Rebels	13	10	0	3	20
Lamb A	13	10	0	3	20
Red Lion Red Devils	13	9	0	4	18
Kings Arms Stockland A	13	9	0	4	18
B&G's	12	8	0	4	16
Lamb Spartans	13	7	0	6	14
Axe Inn Jokers	12	7	0	5	14
Gerrard A	13	7	0	6	14
Colcombe A	13	6	0	7	12
Axe Vale A	13	6	0	7	12
Old Inn Kilmington A	13	4	0	9	8
Thorncombe B	13	3	0	10	6
Underlays (Axe Carpets)	13	3	0	10	6
New Inn Kilmington C	13	1	0	12	2

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Thorncombe Drifters	11	8	1	2	17
White Hart Wilm A	12	8	0	4	16
Harbour Feds	12	7	1	4	15
Carpetbaggers Green Army	12	7	0	5	14
Tuckers C (T)	11	7	0	4	14
Thorncombe A	11	6	1	4	13
Axe Con Club A	11	6	0	5	12
Red Lion D	12	6	0	6	12
Old Inn Kilmington B	12	5	0	7	10
Axminster Inn A	12	5	0	7	10
Axevale Stars	12	4	0	8	8
Lamb C (T)	11	3	1	7	7
Kings Arms Seaton A	11	1	0	10	2

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Gerrard D (T)	12	8	0	4	16
New Inn Z (T)	12	8	0	4	16
Tuckers Maggots	11	6	1	4	13
Seaton Town FC	12	6	1	5	13
Kingfisher B	11	6	0	5	12
Red Lion C (T)	11	6	0	5	12
Old Inn Hawkch'ch B	12	6	0	6	12
Lamb D (T)	12	6	0	6	12
Ship Spreaders	11	6	0	5	12
Hawkch'ch Halfcuts (T)	10	5	0	5	10
Colcombe B	11	5	0	6	10
Gerrard B	10	3	0	7	6
George Chardstock	11	1	0	10	2

Division Four

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tuckers B	12	10	0	2	20
New Inn KilmA	12	8	0	4	16
Old Inn Hawkch'ch A	12	8	0	4	16
Harbour Rotary	12	7	0	5	14
Tuckers A (T)	12	7	0	5	13
Kingfisher A	12	6	0	6	12
New Inn Kilm Hawks (T)	12	5	0	7	10
Red Lion B (T)	11	5	0	6	10
Seaton BC A	12	5	0	7	10
Gerrard C (T)	11	5	0	6	10
Kingfish Nomads (T)	10	4	0	6	8
Harbour Hawks	12	4	0	8	8
Winstons	10	1	0	9	2

CORONATION CUP — FINAL

Winsham lose to the hot favourites

By KEVIN FAHEY
pulmans@tindlenews.co.uk

Lyme Regis 3 Winsham 0

WINSHAM manager Phil Loaring says his players can take great encouragement from their performance in losing to hot favourites Lyme Regis in the final of the Coronation Cup.

"No doubt that Lyme deserved to win but I think the scoreline was a bit flattering to them," said Loaring.

"We had some chances and I felt that we should have had a few more decisions go our way."

Lyme had taken an early lead through Steve Batey, when he nipped in front of his marker to powerfully head in Mark Bailey's excellent corner.

That was the sort of start Loaring feared but his Winsham team refused to buckle and immediately took the game to the defending champions.

"Joe Simmonds hit the crossbar with a header and then John Stead missed a glorious chance," said Loaring. We could have easily ended the first half 2-1 up instead of being 1-0 down."

Despite the advantage Lyme boss Robin Townsend acknowledged that his side had been second best for large parts of that opening 45 minutes.

"Words were said and I gave the lads a right rollicking at half time," said Townsend.

Even then Loaring felt his side were denied a blatant penalty for a foul on Tom Symes but after that appeal was denied Lyme took a firm grip on the cup when Jason Hawker made it 2-0, again from a set piece move as he headed in Joel Gosling's corner.

Batey scored his second in the closing minutes to wrap up victory and keep up Lyme Regis' bid for an unprecedented four trophies this season.

"I was pleased with the way the lads responded after half-time and went on to win the game," said Townsend. "Now we have to keep that momentum going into the new year and our next league game away to Merriott Rovers on January 7th."

Loaring's disappointment should be balanced against the knowledge that this Lyme side is exceptional and his team is enjoying a successful first season in the top flight.

"The aim before the season was to finish in the top four and that is still the aim and I would be happy with that," added Loaring, whose side open the new year currently in third place. "And we are also still in the Challenge Cup.

"As for Lyme they are the strongest team we have played this season. They are very well organised and have two or three very good players while the rest of a strong squad are good.

"They are also a nice bunch of lads and the manager is also a nice guy as well."

SEATON BOXING DAY SWIM

Seaton swim

A FEW hardy souls braved the rough sea to join the traditional Boxing Day swim on Seaton beach.

Dianne Bevan, pictured left, from New South Wales, Australia, raised in the region of £200 for Seaton Hospital's League of Friends by donning her cap and taking a dip.

The sponsored swim was done in memory of Gail Nunan, who passed away this time last year, after asking Dianne to help raise money for the hospital that had cared for her.

Dianne and Gail had known each other for over 30 years, working together at a nursing unit back in New South Wales.

Commenting on the care Gail received, Dianne said: "She couldn't have been in a nicer place. The care given was just beautiful and it was lovely to know she was cared for right to the end."

Dianne further added that there were not many institutions like the League of Friends where she comes from in Australia and that the work they do should be both applauded and supported.

Above, members of Axminster Young Farmers Club after their Boxing Day swim at Seaton.

Photos can be easily viewed and purchased online at our website www.axminster-today.co.uk

HONITON GOLF

Two against one...just isn't fair?

I WAS going to write about how John and your reporter surged to another last hole, fluky win until I heard in the clubhouse about an even more spectacular result.

Matt Bond arrived on the tee and found himself having to face club captain Tim Avery and partner Dave Maggs completely alone.

Not only that but he was having to give a shed-load of shots. Undaunted, he set to the task with his usual considered resolve and swept to a 6-4 victory.

Tim is no stranger to excellent play having nurtured a son, Jason, who is developing in the game as a very promising professional, and was generous in his praise for Matt's achievements.

As for Matt's partner, no names no pack drill, I think he can take the rest of the winter off.

Tuesday Mixed

As a result of the course being closed in the early part of the day, the organisers, Jennifer and Richard Pyle had an excellent contingency plan – a Christmas Tree Drive.

This is very similar to a beetle drive, incorporating the prizes which would have been for the Bring & Win.

All those due to play assembled in the clubhouse for a most enjoyable morning followed by lunch.

The prize table looked very festive, and everybody won and nobody lost. What a great idea!

Ladies Section

No results as the Wednesday competition was cancelled as a mark of respect for Sheila Banks, who died recently, and to enable members to attend the funeral.

Sheila's family provided a reception at the clubhouse after the funeral which was graced with a photo of the ever-smiling Sheila and a slogan saying: "Grandmas are just antique little girls."

She will be very much missed.

HONITON CRIB

Results

Feniton Soc A 1 Kings Arms 7, Thirsty Farmer 4 Awliscombe Inn 4, Three Tuns 6 Blacksmith Arms 2, Vine Inn B 4 New Fountain 4, Winslade Club 2 Workingmens A 6, Workingmens B 4 Feniton Soc B 4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kings Arms	14	9	1	4	28
Workingmens A	14	7	5	2	26
Thirsty Farmer	14	6	5	3	23
Workingmens B	14	6	4	4	22
Winslade Club	14	7	1	6	22
New Fountain	14	5	6	3	21
Vine Inn B	13	5	5	3	20
Three Tuns	14	4	5	5	17
Feniton Soc B	14	3	7	4	16
Awliscombe Inn	14	3	5	6	14
Blacksm Arms	14	3	4	7	13
Feniton Soc A	14	2	4	8	10
Vine Inn A	13	2	4	7	10

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CHALLENGE

Lyme manager lays down new year task for team

By KEVIN FAHEY
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LYME Regis manager Robin Townsend has laid down an audacious challenge to his players for the new year.

Townsend believes that his team's success in winning the Coronation Cup on Boxing Day, beating Winsham 3-0 at Cloakham Lawn, can be the springboard to even greater success in the second half of the season.

The Perry Street League Premier Division, which Lyme currently head with ten wins out of ten, remains the overriding target for the club but that isn't Townsend's only New Year's wish.

"We are top but the title isn't won yet at all and we will keep taking each game as it comes along," said Townsend.

"We are also into the semi-finals of the Dorset Intermediate Cup and we have the first round of the Challenge Cup coming up at the end of January.

"We are definitely going for everything and I think we have the squad to do that."

Most rival managers agree that Lyme's squad is the strongest in the league and that they deserve to be top of the Premier Division as the 2011/12 season enters its second half but Townsend is certainly taking nothing for granted.

"I hear the odd snipe from the sidelines that with this squad anyone could do my job," added Townsend.

"But I think it is the hardest job in the league because I have to try and keep everyone happy. I am proud that we are successful and trying to play football in the right manner.

"We are in a strong position but apart from the Coronation Cup we have won nothing yet. The other three teams left in the Dorset Intermediate Cup are very strong and the Challenge Cup will be a tough competition.

"The league title is probably ours to throw away but I can remember playing for the side back in 2006 when we had a 14-points lead and threw that away. The likes of Dominic Rose and Adam Caddy were in that side too so they won't forget that either.

"There is still a job to be done."

First with all the latest local sport news. Visit www.axminster-today.co.uk

◆ THE Axe Vale Harriers held its traditional hunt meet on the seafront at Seaton on Boxing Day morning where a large crowd turned out to watch as the hunt set off

Photo by Colin Bowerman

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